

# Representative Jeff Morris

## Update:

### Innovative Life Sciences Research Underway

In its first round of grant funding, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) created in 2005 by the legislation I championed is supporting innovative Washington research. Grant projects include:

- New diagnostics for breast cancer, heart disease, and Type 1 diabetes
- New technology for stroke treatment
- Quality improvements in medication management and surgical outcomes.

Such research, like that funded in all LSDF competitions, will be expected to lead to considerable health benefits for Washington's citizens and to economic growth for the state. Economic impacts may include additional grants and private investment, product commercialization, jobs and company formation, and business activities derived from the conduct of the research.

The dollars for this \$350 million, 10-year effort to improve health and health care and promote economic vitality will come from the tobacco settlement bonus scheduled to start arriving in April.

I will continue to work to make sure Washington is a leader in life science research.

For more information about the Life Sciences Discovery Fund, visit their website at: <http://www.lsdfa.org>



To save money on printing and postage, I have started to deliver these updates electronically. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please visit my website at <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/morris> and sign up for my electronic newsletters.

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2008  
SESSION REPORT

Rep. Jeff Morris  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

## Representative Jeff Morris

## 2008 SESSION REPORT



### Rep. Jeff Morris

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Dear Neighbor,

Things are moving quickly here in Olympia. We have just 60 days to address numerous issues surrounding the problems of prosperity, including congestion relief, skyrocketing property valuations, and education reforms. I am serving in a leadership role this session in the House of Representatives as Speaker Pro Tempore.

The Speaker Pro Tempore is a core member of the House Democratic leadership team and elected by the entire House on the first day of the legislative session. In this role, I will preside over much of the floor debate and serve on the House Rules Committee that decides which bills make it to the Floor for a vote. I will also continue to serve on the Technology, Energy, and Communications Committee, which I used to chair.

This legislative update is designed to give you an idea of just a handful of the issues that I will be working on during the 2008 session. Included is information on:

- ✓ Identification Technology and threats to personal privacy
- ✓ Keeping family farms viable
- ✓ Recreation Center in Skagit County
- ✓ Restoring Washington State Ferry services

I'd appreciate hearing what you have to think about these or any other issues that are on your mind. Please write a letter, phone the legislative hotline, or send an email with any thoughts or concerns you may have.

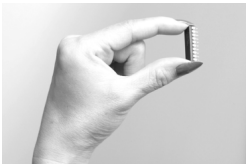
Sincerely,

Jeff Morris





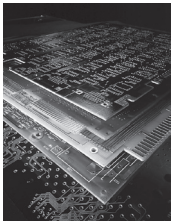
# IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY – Informing consumer, stopping crooks



Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology is a new and exciting technology that is changing the way we shop, drive, and even receive medical care. While there are many consumer benefits, there remains a great risk potential if the technology is abused or used by criminals.

## Labeling

This year, I have introduced legislation to require the labeling of products that contain identification chips. In the vast majority of cases, these chips present no threats to consumers, but it is important that consumers can make informed choices and know exactly what they are buying.



## Scanning

It is also extremely important that consumers know when the technology is being used and that it not be used as a new form of identity theft. My legislation also outlaws the practice of “Skimming;” the unauthorized scanning of identification chips.



# FERRIES

I have been a constant critic of the Washington State Ferries’ (WSF) management practices. I’ve fought for years with WSF management, ferry advisory committee members, as well as other legislators determined to protect them, over issues like vessel procurement, safety standards, and operating efficiencies. I never like saying “I told you so,” but there has been a lot of news about the ferries lately – not much of it good. Legislators are very good at being reactive and now that an emergency exists, boat construction should finally move forward.

While I am encouraged by the recent progress, I will remain skeptical until I see some real results. I have spent the last ten years fighting to keep ferries accountable to lawmakers makers in Olympia and the riders in our community, and will continue to do so.



Rep. Morris addresses the Council of State Government regarding Northwestern State’s energy issues.



# PROTECTING FAMILY FARMS

I’m leading an effort in the House to change an outdated law that has led to an instance of unexpected taxation on some of our local dairy farms. In an effort to protect shellfish, a fee was created that originally exempted these farms. But when the Dairy Nutrient Management Act was created, it did not change the exemption in the shellfish law. These dairy farms have incorporated new methods and technologies to meet higher state standards of keeping any runoff from entering the waterways.



Running a farm in Western Washington is getting tougher every year. I am pushing to relieve our local dairy farms of this fee for committing to a higher environmental standard.

# Skagit Valley REC Center

Last year, I was able to secure \$1 million worth of state funding to help build the new Skagit Valley Recreation Center. When completed, the center will serve as a



multi-use community facility that will be a hub for youth oriented activity. It will provide space for a variety of youth sports leagues, community meeting rooms, and park and recreation offices and activities. I will continue look for ways for the state to play a role in keeping this project on track to open in 2010.

